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imagery analysis report

Temporary Buildings at Mobile IRBM Bases, USSR (S)

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TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AT MOBILE IRBM BASES, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) Three types of temporary buildings, similar in size and deployment to SS-20 single-bay garages, have been observed at five Soviet facilities that have since been identified as SS-20 mobile IRBM bases (Figure 1). These temporary buildings were constructed between [] and may have preceded actual SS-20-related construction by as much as 5 months at one facility. In most cases, dismantlement of these buildings began once construction of legitimate SS-20 facilities was underway.

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2. (S/D) The purpose of the temporary buildings has not yet been determined. []

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[] Another possibility is that construction of temporary buildings was necessitated by a shortage of SS-20 single-bay garage components or experienced SS-20 construction crews. The buildings might also have been used for temporary storage, workshops, or unidentified training.

3. (S/D) This departure from normal SS-20 construction practices served to focus attention on this activity. Differences in construction were such that these facilities were not identified as SS-20 bases prior to the identification of standard SS-20 buildings.

4. (S/D) Of the three types of temporary buildings observed, two were at Verkhnyaya Salda Mobile IRBM Base 5 [] and Yurya Mobile IRBM Base 5 []. The first type is a [] SS-20 single-bay, sliding-roofed garage without a standard foundation. The second type is a two-bay, peak-roofed building approximately []. During October 1979, at 13 former SS-4 and SS-5 launch sites, 56 similar two-bay buildings were in various stages of construction. The purpose of these buildings has not been determined. Most were never completed, and many have since been torn down or are in disrepair.¹ The third type of temporary building was erected at Lebedin Mobile IRBM Base 1 [], Kivertsy Mobile IRBM Base 2 [], and Krolevets Mobile IRBM Base 1 []. It is similar to the SS-20 single-bay, sliding-roofed garage but with slightly different dimensions—28 by 7 by 4 meters as opposed to [] for an actual SS-20 garage.

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25X1**Verkhnyaya Salda Mobile IRBM Base 5**

5. (S/D) Between [] eight temporary two-bay buildings and a set of footings, possibly for a ninth building, were constructed at Verkhnyaya Salda SSM Launch Position 4 [] Table 1), a dismantled former SS-7 ICBM launch site. These temporary two-bay buildings and footings were first observed at Verkhnyaya Salda on [] an SS-20 single-bay garage without the standard foundation was in the late stage of construction on a former SS-7 launch pad; it was externally complete by [] in the support area, the foundation for a C-shaped command-and-control building, unique to the SS-20 system, was under construction. This observation resulted in the site being identified as the fifth mobile IRBM base in the Verkhnyaya Salda Division of the Orenburg Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) Army. On [] footings were observed for the standard foundation of a single-bay garage associated with the SS-20 system. On [] one two-bay temporary building was being dismantled, and seven were still intact. There was no change to the footings for the possible ninth building, but on [] a single-bay garage was under construction at that location, and the footings were not discernible. By [] nine single-bay garages with standard foundations were under construction. On [] the first single-bay garage with standard foundation was externally complete. By [] all nine single-bay garages appeared to be externally complete, and the single-bay temporary garage without standard foundation and the eight two-bay temporary buildings had been dismantled.

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25X1**Yurya Mobile IRBM Base 5**

6. (S/D) Between [] eight two-bay temporary buildings were constructed at Yurya SSM Launch Position 3 [] a dismantled former SS-7 launch site. Their size and configuration were similar to those of the two-bay temporary buildings reported at Verkhnyaya Salda Mobile IRBM Base 5. On [] when these two-bay temporary buildings were observed at Yurya for the first time, seven were complete and one was being dismantled. By [] two SS-20 single-bay temporary garages without standard foundations were in the midstage of construction on the former SS-7 launch pads. By [] the two single-bay temporary garages were externally complete, and one two-bay temporary building had been dismantled (Figure 2 and Table 2). When the foundations for one single-bay garage with standard foundation and a C-shaped command-and-control building were observed on [] the site was identified as the fifth mobile IRBM base in the Yurya SSM Division of the Vladimir SRF Army. On [] seven single-bay garages were in various stages of construction (Figure 3). By [] nine standard-foundation single-bay garages were in various stages of construction. On [] five two-bay buildings were still intact, one had been dismantled, and two were being dismantled. On [] at least one standard-foundation single-bay garage was externally complete. By [] one of the two single-bay temporary garages without standard foundation had been dismantled, and by [] the other had been dismantled. On [] all nine standard single-bay garages appeared

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to be externally complete, and by [] all eight of the two-bay buildings had been dismantled (Figure 4). Additionally, an SS-20 transporter-erector-launcher with a training canister was observed in the nuclear payload handling facility, indicating that the base was operational.

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Lebedin Mobile IRBM Base 1

7. (S/D) Lebedin Mobile IRBM Base 1 (Table 3) was first identified on [] when foundations for at least two single-bay garages and one four-bay garage were observed under construction at Lebedin IRBM Launch Site 1 []. Between [] activity related to single-bay, four-bay, and 11-bay garages was observed; however, no temporary buildings were present. On [] six single-bay garages had been constructed, and single-bay garage foundations were in front of three single-bay temporary buildings. On [] two of the three temporary buildings were being dismantled, and a standard single-bay garage had been constructed on one foundation in front of the third temporary building. In addition, three four-bay garages, each cable-connected to three single-bay garages or their foundations, were under construction in the operations area, and an 11-bay garage was externally complete in the support area. No evidence of mobile-base construction was observed on partial coverage of Launch Site 1 on [] and the base has not been imaged since []. Lebedin Mobile IRBM Base 1 is the first mobile IRBM base in the Romny SSM Division of the Vinnitsa SRF Army.

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FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AT SS-20 MOBILE IRBM BASES, USSR

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Single-Bay Without S Foundation

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Two-Bay,
Roofed B

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Single-Bay
Bldg

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Single-Bay
Bldg

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Single-Bay Bldg

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8. (S/D) On [] Kivertsy Mobile IRBM Base 2 (Figure 5 and Table 4) was first identified under construction at Kivertsy MRBM Launch Site 2 [] a deactivated SS-4 launch site. In the operations area, five single-bay temporary buildings were positioned behind five single-bay garage foundations. Also, four complete permanent single-bay garages were observed, and one garage appeared to have three rows of footer excavations immediately behind it. This suggests that a temporary building may have been constructed and subsequently dismantled. Identification of the permanent single-bay garages, the foundations for three permanent four-bay garages in the operations area, and a foundation for a probable 11-bay garage in the support area resulted in the site being identified as the third mobile IRBM base in the Lutsk SSM Division of the Vinnitsa SRF Army. No indication of mobile-base construction was observed on partial coverage of Launch Site 2 on [] and the base has not been imaged since []

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25X1**Krolevets Mobile IRBM Base 1**

9. (S/D) On [] at Krolevets IRBM Launch Position 1 [] Krolevets Mobile IRBM Base 1 (Table 5) was first identified under construction when nine probable single-bay garages and one single-bay temporary building were observed in the former SS-5 launch area. One permanent single-bay garage and the temporary building were in tandem on a single access ramp with the temporary building apparently inaccessible to vehicles. When this base was last imaged, on [] the temporary building had been dismantled, and it appeared that at least three additional temporary buildings, positioned in tandem with three single-bay garages, had been dismantled. In addition to the nine permanent single-bay garages, three four-bay garages were in the early stage of construction. No evidence of mobile-base construction was observed on coverage of Launch Position 1 on [] Krolevets Mobile IRBM Base 1 is the second mobile IRBM base in the Romny SSM Division of the Vinnitsa SRF Army.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC [] IAR-0127/81, *Status of SS-4 Medium-Range and SS-5 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile Systems, USSR (S)*, Sep 81 (TOP SECRET []) 25X1
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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] 25X1
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